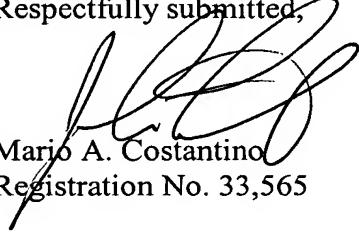


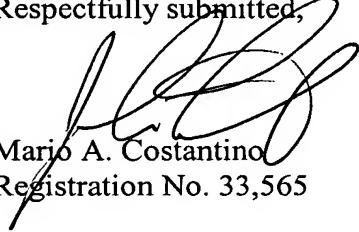
REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565



John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

MAC:JWF/lbg

Date: March 24, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--